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## Resolution 1947-04-27 Federal Surplus Lands

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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4. **Federal Surplus Lands**

Resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that we favor the Wherry-Burke bills to turn over suitable surplus war lands to the states or to the federal Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife purposes. The Burke bill, which has already been passed by the lower House, is now pending in the Public Lands Committee of the Senate and we urge that Committee to give favorable consideration to these measures. Should the Committee prefer not to report them then we urge the introduction of bills in both Houses which will carry specific areas of such surplus lands selected by the states for transfer to them for wildlife administration, and we further urge that all such lands be held in status quo until the Congress has had an opportunity of considering these bills.

6. **Preservation of Wilderness Areas**

Whereas the wilderness areas still remaining on the North American continent afford the only hope for the perpetuation of a type of sport that Americans have always cherished; and

Whereas such wilderness areas are also the reservoirs for the game upon which many sportsmen in surrounding areas depend; and

Whereas the maintenance of wilderness areas is constantly threatened by developments of civilization that are inconsistent with primitive conditions; and

Whereas the preservation of such wilderness areas is dependent upon the operation of sound public policies and the vigilant support of conservationists;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in its Thirty-Seventh Annual Convention at Denver, Colorado, endorses the movement for wilderness preservation and commends those organizations that are representing the public interest in developing and mobilizing support for the preservation of such wilderness areas as are threatened.

Be it further resolved that this Association urges states, provinces, and other local units, as well as federal and dominion agencies, to include wilderness preservation wherever suitable in their plans for land-management.

8. **Protection of Canada Geese and Other Migratory Game Birds in Critical Areas, Including the Horseshoe Lake Area in Illinois**

Whereas under conditions occurring from time to time there is danger of serious depletion of Canada geese and other migratory game birds by reason of excessive killing of such species in critical areas where they congregate in various parts of the country; and

Whereas in order to prevent the depletion and possible extermination of such species, it is necessary that special protection be given them through action by federal and state authorities; and

Whereas such a critical area for Canada geese now exists in the Horseshoe Lake territory in Alexander county, Illinois, known as the greatest wintering concentration point for that species in the Mississippi flyway;

Therefore be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners assembled in annual convention in Denver, Colorado, September 9, 1947, that we urge that so much as may be necessary of the Horseshoe Lake area and adjacent territories be closed to the shooting of Canada geese forthwith, to remain closed as long as may be necessary for the adequate protection of such geese, and that similar action be taken in other critical areas wherever necessary to provide adequate protection for Canada geese or other migratory game birds.

Be it further resolved that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Governor and other appropriate authorities of the State of Illinois, and all other agencies concerned be requested to take all steps necessary to give effect to the provisions of this resolution.

9. **Standing Committee on Pittman-Robertson Activities**

Resolved that a standing committee be appointed by the President, as provided by the by-laws, of such number as he deems best, to make a complete study and survey of all Pittman-Robertson activities and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Association thereon from time to time, including measures in furtherance of clarification of the administrative procedures of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service so as to meet most effectively the needs of the respective states, also measures regarding expenditure of impounded surplus Pittman-Robertson funds.